



## State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Office of Quality Assurance

401 East State Street

P.O. Box 420, Mail Code 401-02D

Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Telephone: (609)-292-3950

Facsimile: (609)-777-1774

CHRIS CHRISTIE  
*Governor*

KIM GUADAGNO  
*Lt. Governor*

BOB MARTIN  
*Commissioner*

August 3, 2015

**CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

Attention Laboratory Manager:

RE: October Solid/Chemical Materials PT Study

As a participant in the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) your business is required to acceptably analyze two out of three Proficiency Testing (PT) Samples for each field of proficiency testing within an 18-month period; and must participate in PT Studies approximately every six months.

Businesses are required to purchase PT Samples from a PT Provider accredited by a TNI approved Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditor (PTPA). A list of accredited PT Providers can be found in Attachment A of this letter. It can also be found at <http://www.nelac-institute.org/ptproviders.php>.

For the October Solid/Chemical Materials Study businesses are required to purchase and analyze PT Samples for the parameters given on the attached "SCM Parameter Table" (Attachment B) in which they hold New Jersey Certification. **Be sure that you include the new parameters listed on the table which are italicized for easy review.** For the October Solid/Chemical Materials Study businesses are required to analyze only soil PT Samples. Businesses that currently hold certification within the Solid and Chemical Materials (SCM) matrix for a given parameter are required to analyze a solid PT Sample when one is available.

Please also note the following:

- Businesses must assure that for the October Solid/Chemical Materials Study the PT sample(s) are not analyzed less than 5 months, or more than 7 months from the prior sample.
- Businesses must report the PT Sample result with the method in which it holds certification. **If a business reports a PT Sample result with a method other than that in which it holds certification it will be evaluated as failed to submit results and therefore "Unacceptable" and will require the analysis of a make-up study.**
- If a business reports more than one test method per technology per Field of Proficiency Testing (FoPT), an unacceptable score for any test method shall result in an unacceptable score for all test methods for that FoPT.
- Parameters noted in bold on the table are parameters that are required above and beyond the FoPT. Businesses must successfully analyze one PT sample a year in order to maintain eligibility to report data to the State of New Jersey for these parameters.
- An amended report from the PT Sample Provider will not be accepted by the Office of Quality Assurance (QQA).
- Businesses must ensure they request that the PT providers submit the results to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (NJDEP) OQA prior to the close of the study in order for results to be accepted.
- Raw data records will not be accepted or reviewed to use as justification for data reporting errors.
- For PT Sample results that are found "Unacceptable", other enforcement actions may be taken by the NJDEP in addition to the requirement for analyzing samples in a make-up study.
- For any parameters not detected in the PT Sample the laboratory must report a result of less than the laboratory's Reporting Limit ( $< RL$ ) to get credit for the analysis of the parameter. If no result is reported no credit will be received for the parameter. **Only non-detects (below the laboratory's RL shall be reported as a less than value. If a laboratory reports a less than result for anything greater than its RL no credit will be given. Also, if a non-detect is not reported as a less than value no credit will be received for the parameter (a result of Zero will not be accepted).**

Additionally, PT Samples are to be entered into the sample receipt log as samples and tracked through the analytical process as routine environmental samples. PT Samples received as ampules are to be diluted according to the PT Provider's instructions. The diluted ampule becomes the routine environmental sample, which is then added to a routine sample batch. PT Samples shall not be analyzed multiple times unless routine environmental samples are analyzed multiple times. Results from multiple analyses must be calculated in the same manner as routine environmental samples. The type, composition, concentration and frequency of quality control samples analyzed with the PT Samples shall be the same as with that used for environmental samples. Also, initial and continuing calibrations shall be the same frequency as that used with routine environmental samples.

If you have any questions please contact Rachel Ellis at 609-292-3950.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Aiello  
Assistant Director

Enclosure(s): Attachments A & B

